

Claims

What is claimed is:

1. A cellular telephone comprising:
5 a first transceiver for establishing cellular telephone calls;
a second transceiver for establishing a local voice channel; and
a mixer for combining voice corresponding to the cellular telephone call with
voice on the local voice channel to create a multiparty conference call.
- 10 2. The cellular telephone of claim 1 and further comprising an input device for
selecting transceivers and identifying parties.
3. The cellular telephone of claim 1 wherein the second transceiver implements a
wireless communication protocol to establish a local voice channel.
- 15 4. The cellular telephone of claim 3 wherein the communication protocol is selected
from the group consisting of RF, IR and microwave based communication protocols.
5. The cellular telephone of claim 1 and further comprising a microphone and a
20 speaker coupled to the mixer.
6. The cellular telephone of claim 1 wherein the second transceiver automatically
identifies other compatible transceivers within range for potential voice channel
establishment.
- 25 7. The cellular telephone of claim 1 and further comprising a menu driven interface
for controlling establishment of voice channels.
8. The cellular telephone of claim 1 wherein the second transceiver receives requests
30 from other devices to establish a voice channel.

9. The cellular telephone of claim 1 wherein the voice channel is established with device having a compatible transceiver, wherein the device is selected from the group consisting of cellular telephones, two way radios, personal digital assistants, internet appliances and computer systems.

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10. The cellular telephone of claim 1 wherein the mixer comprises executing software.

11. A method of conferencing a third party into a cellular telephone call, the method comprising:

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identifying a third party device within a desired local area;

establishing a voice channel with the third party device via a second transceiver in a cellular phone that is a party to the cellular telephone call; and

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mixing voice from the voice channel and the cellular telephone call to establish a multiparty conference call.

12. The method of claim 11 and further comprising establishing further voice channels with further parties, and mixing voice from the multiple voice channels.

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13. The method of claim 11 wherein the third party device is invited to establish a voice channel prior to its establishment.

14. The method of claim 13 wherein the voice channel is established after acceptance by the third party device.

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15. The method of claim 11 wherein the cellular phone is invited to establish the voice channel with the third party device.

16. The method of claim 11 and further comprising detecting third party devices within range of the second transceiver.

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17. The method of claim 16 wherein a user of the cellular telephone is provided an interface facilitating selection of the third party device for which to establish a voice channel.

5 18. A method of creating a multiparty conference call, the method comprising:
identifying a third party device within a desired local area;
establishing a voice channel with the third party device via a local area transceiver
in a cellular phone that is a party to a cellular telephone call; and
mixing voice from the voice channel and the cellular telephone call to establish a
10 multiparty conference call.

19. The method of claim 18 and further comprising establishing further voice channels with further parties, and mixing voice from the multiple voice channels.

15 20. The method of claim 18 wherein the third party device is invited to establish a voice channel prior to establishment thereof.

21. The method of claim 20 wherein the voice channel is established after acceptance by the third party device.

20 22. The method of claim 18 wherein the cellular phone is invited to establish the voice channel with the third party device.

23. The method of claim 18 and further comprising detecting third party devices
25 within range of the second transceiver.

24. The method of claim 23 wherein a user of the cellular telephone is provided an interface facilitating selection of the third party device for which to establish the voice channel.

30 25. An apparatus, comprising:

a housing;

means, disposed within said housing, for communicating with a first device via a cellular communications network;

5 means, disposed within said housing, for communicating with a second device via a local communications link; and

means, disposed within said housing, for combining communications with the first and second devices wherein a user of the first device is capable of communicating with a user of the second device.

10 26. An apparatus as claimed in claim 25, said means for communicating with a first device via a cellular communications network comprising a cellular telephone transceiver circuit structure.

15 27. An apparatus as claimed in claim 25, said means for communicating with a second device via a local communications link comprising a radio-frequency transceiver circuit structure.

20 28. An apparatus as claimed in claim 25, said means for combining communications with the first and second devices comprising a mixer circuit structure.

25 29. An apparatus as claimed in claim 25, said means for communicating with a second device via a local communications link implementing a form of communications selected from the group consisting of Bluetooth, RF analog, RF digital, IR, spread-spectrum, frequency-hopping, network, wireless, and wired.

30 30. An apparatus as claimed in claim 25, said housing having a size and shape conducive to hand-held operation and for operation from a battery stored within a boundary defined by said housing.